

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 20, 23, 24 and 26-28 remain pending in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

The sole issue raised in the outstanding Official Action is the rejection of all pending claims over a combination of three documents, Markusch et al, Hannah et al and Hagio et al as stated in item 2 of the Official Action and further explained in items 3 and 4 of the Official Action.

This response follows up on the examiner's comment in item 4 of the Official Action:

“Firstly, applicants have argued that Markusch et al teach the use of heat activated catalysts and, accordingly, Markusch et al teach away from the use of acid blocked amines as a catalyst for a urethane-forming system curable at ambient temperature. In response, this argument is without merit, as there is no requirement within the claims requiring the composition to be ambient temperature curable.”

In reviewing the description of the invention it will be apparent that if heating is required a temperature or temperature range will be indicated; *see*, for example, the last two lines of page 13 of the description and contrast this with all the working examples in which temperature is not mentioned. As is well understood in this and many other arts, the absence of an indication of an unusual or particular temperature would lead the reader to understand that the event, reaction, or whatever, was conducted at ambient temperature.

This being the case, applicants have amended independent claims 23, 26, 27 and 28 to specify that the reaction is conducted at ambient temperature which is consistent with the description of the invention, in particular the examples as compared with the overall content of the specification itself.

The above amendment (in effect to all of the claims) makes explicit what is already implicit in the disclosure and is reflected in the claims. It also responds directly to the examiner's suggestion that the claims require the composition to be ambient temperature curable.

The claims as above amended therefore distinguish from the cited prior art, notably the primary reference to Markusch et al which requires heat activated catalysts and thus are not curable at ambient temperatures.

KOMETANI et al  
Appl. No. 10/724,608  
December 22, 2009

For the above reasons it is respectfully submitted that claims 20, 23, 24 and 26-28 define inventive subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Arthur R. Crawford  
Reg. No. 25,327

ARC:eaw  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100